

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend the ABSTRACT as follows:

The disclosed invention provides an improved method of drying wet or water damaged surfaces. The method uses ~~using~~ a vacuum source, a manifold, and a plastic sheet  
5 covered grid. The grid includes ~~having~~ a lattice formation with spaces to permit moisture and air to pass from and beneath the surface to the vacuum source.

Please amend PARAGRAPH 0001 of the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS as follows:

10 [0001] This application is a divisional of and claims priority to U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/516,827 filed Mar. 1, 2000, now U.S. Patent 5,893,216 and claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/123,401 filed Mar. 8, 1999, now U.S. Patent 6,647,639; each application is incorporated by reference in its entirety as if fully set forth herein.

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Please amend PARAGRAPH 0045 of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION as follows:

[0045] Floor Drying System. The floor drying aspect of the invention will now be described. While the previous aspects of the invention can be used to dry floors, the following aspect of the new system is particularly advantageous in drying floors, especially  
20 hardwood floors. Referring now to FIGS. 5A-5E, what is illustrated is the general method of the new system for drying floors, using the components described in greater detail in FIG. 6. Specifically, FIG. 5A shows the grid laid on the wet floor with a floor plate 70 thereon, and both covered with the impermeable membrane ~~MSOffice Mark: "membrane" is in the~~

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~~drawings but not numbered. We must add a number for it, especially since it is claimed.~~ This

membrane is sealed around its perimeter with tape, and is being pierced just above the barbed

nozzles 72 of the floor plate 70. FIG. 5B shows the membrane fitted neatly over the barbed

nozzles 72 of the floor plate. FIG. 5C shows two floor plates resting on the grid. FIG. 5D

5 shows the tape being used to seal the membrane over the floor plate and grid. FIG. 5E shows

tubes affixed to barbed nozzles of the floor plate, with the tubes off the page being connected

to a manifold or hose to the blower, and illustrating the system ready to begin drying in

negative pressure mode. Referring now to FIG. 6, floor plate 70 (12 inch version shown) has

a plurality of barbed nozzles 72 for receiving tubing from the hose and blower system

10 previously described. Floor plate 70 is shown in end view in FIG. 6B. Floor plate 70 has side

walls 74 which raise floor plate off of the grid by a dimension 76. Dimension 76 is

anticipated to be approximately 1/2 inch, but can be any dimension sufficient to permit air to

pass under floor plate 70 and out through barbed nozzles 72 (which are hollow, and connect

with tubes 10 as do barbed nozzles 28 and 42 previously described). Floor plate 70 depicted

15 in FIGS. 5A 5E, and in FIGS. 6A and 6B, rests upon the grid 78 shown in FIG. 6C and 6D.

Grid 78 is comprised of roughly parallel upper strands 80 in one plane superimposed over

another set of roughly parallel lower strands 82 in a lower plane. While the strands 82 are

roughly parallel with other strands 82, and the strands 80 are roughly parallel with the other

strands 80, strands 80 and 82 are not parallel with each other such that, as shown in FIG. 6D,

20 a lattice-work type formation is created. The precise angle of orientation of the strands 80

and 82 relative to each other is not critical. All that is critical for this aspect of the invention

is that air and moisture are able to pass from one plane to the other. That is, the purpose of

grid 78 is to provide a space between the impermeable membrane (not shown) which is laid

over the grid and the wet floor through which air and moisture may pass, even when the


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negative pressure is exerted against the membrane. (In positive pressure mode, no grid is required, but more care must be taken that the perimeter is sealed). Now that the details of the particular components of the floor drying system have been described, a general description of the use of the system is provided. Reference to FIGS. 5A-5E may again be helpful here. In the preferred embodiment, the grid 78 is either 300 square feet (in the 60 Pak) and 450 square feet (in the 90 Pak). This grid is 30 inches wide. To make handling easier, one way to use it is to cut it into 3 foot long pieces. When covering a wet area with the grid, the user simply places on the floor enough pieces to cover the affected area to be dried. The grid is irregular enough to allow air and moisture to travel up vertically and then horizontally as there is not a perfect seal between the grid and the floor surface.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added by the foregoing amendments to the ABSTRACT, PARAGRAPH 0001 of the CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS, and PARAGRAPH 0045 of the DETAILED DESCRIPTION.